(ख) योजना आयोग ने अनुमान लगाया है कि वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान 17 राज्य बिजली बोर्डों की वाणिज्यिक हानियां ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण आर्थिक सहायता को हिसाब में न लेते हुए लगभग 6511 करोड़ रुपये होगी।

(ग) और (घ) राज्य बिजली बोर्डों की हानियों को कम करने के उपायों के सम्बन्ध में विभिन्न वर्गों से सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं। इनमें, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ कृषि टैरिफ समेत टैरिफ का यौक्तिकरण, ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण आर्थिक सहायता का समय से भुगतान करना, पारेषण एवं वितरण हानियों में कमी करना, संयंत्र भार अनुपात में सुधार करना, प्रबन्ध सम्बन्धी पद्धतियों को सरल और कारगर बनाना, राज्य विद्युत क्षेत्र के पुनर्गठन आदि के सम्बन्ध में सिफारिशें की गई हैं।

Refund orders pending with I.T. Department

129. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of cases regarding issue of refund orders pending with the Income Tax Department for assessment years 1987-88 to 1994-95 year-wise and circle-wise;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such delay; and

(c) by when the assessment of those assesses who have overpaid income tax amount is likely to be completed and refunds issued to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) There are more than three thousand assessing officers deployed on assessment work through out the country. The information sought for relates to 8 assessment years. The labour put in will not be commensurate to the results sought to be achieved. However, the Central Board of Direct Taxes have issued instructions from time to time to complete assessments expeditiously and issue refunds.

Violation of FERA

130. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any FERA violations by the Satellite channels in the country during the year 1994 and so far in 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details of such violations detected so far in respect of each Satellite channel;

(c) whether any of these Satellite channels have submitted any explanations about their funding to the Directorate of Enforcement; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against the persons/officials involved in FERA violations and corrupt practices and if so; what are their names and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) One case of suspected violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (F.E.R.A.) by a satellite channel based in Madras has been detected by the Enforcement Directorate in the year 1995. The amount involved in the case is Rs. 1.41 cores. The managing Director of the company was arrested and later on released on bail.

Funds to save DD from resource crunch

131. SHRI ANANTRAM JAISWAL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry approached the Ministry of Finance for extra funds to save DD from resource crunch; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure no shortage of money for Doordarshan Channel-3?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) An additional requirement of funds has been projected to the Ministry of Finance as part of the normal mid-budgetary review to enable Doordarshan to give an impetus to its various developmental activities including the DD-3 channel.

High-cost power proposals

132. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Financial Express report (2nd October, 1995) that the Ministry of Power has been preferring high-cost Power proposals to the offers of internationally renowned companies willing to supply power at cheaper rates and lower capital costs;

(b) if so, the details of the two sets of offers; and

(c) the reasons for this inexplicable preference of Ministry of Power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An evaluation of these offers can be made by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA)/Ministry of Power only after firm proposals are received from the concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards/ Organisations for setting up a power plant at specific location, based on these offers. The concerned State Government/ State Electricity Boards/Organisations have to first of all evaluate these offers and, if found techno-economically suitable, come up with firm proposals before the CEA. The Government of India's involvement could come only thereafter. The Government however, ensures reasonableness of cost and tariff of private power projects through scrutiny at the level of State Electricity Boards/ State Governments and techno-economic appraisal by the Central Electricity Authority. The cost of private sector power projects cleared by the CEA so far, are found to be comparable to similar projects coming up in the public sector in a similar time frame as well as similar projects coming up in other developing countries. To introduce further competitiveness of prices, Competitive bidding has been made mandatory from 18.2.1995.

Revamping Power Policy

133. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have revamped the power policy and if so, what are the salient features of the same;

(b) whether Government have clearly defined the scope of domestic private sector vis-a-vis foreign participation in setting up new power projects; and

(c) whether Government have also laid guidelines regarding power tariffs and counter guarantees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government announced the private power policy in October, 1991 which has been amended from time to time. Salient features of the policy are at statement (*see* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have laid down norms for calculation of tariff vide Notification dated 30th March, 1992 with subsequent amendments dated 19th January, 1994, 24th August, 1994, 12th January, 1995 and 6th November, 1995. The Government have also laid down general parameters for issue of counter guarantee